

REMARKS

Consideration of the remarks presented herein is respectfully requested.

I. Amendments to the Specification and/or Claims

This amendment contains no amendments to the specification.

The following amendments have been made to the claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the feature of claim 3 (now canceled), to thereby reflect a water-soluble polymer having the recited structure where z' is an integer from 3 to 12.

Claims 2, 3, and 51 have accordingly been canceled.

Claim 42 has been amended to recite a polymer having a value of z' from 3 to 6. Support for this range is found in the specification at page 5, line 13.

No new matter has been introduced into the application as a result of the foregoing amendments.

II. Conclusion

It is submitted that the claims pending in the application are in condition for allowance. Issuance of a new Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

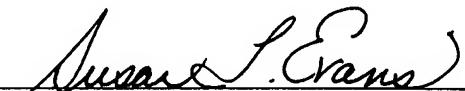
If a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (650) 493-3400.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 9, 2006

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